

Bible Study

For small group discussion or personal journaling

Mark 1: 14-20

also references 1/17/21 sermon by Rev. Sharon Snapp-Kolas

“Jesus Time”

Day 1. Immediately... Read Mark 1:14-20.

Mark, the gospel writer, is in a hurry. Everything in his story happens “immediately.”

- You may want to take a moment to share in your group, or in your journal, about the quick succession of events that have already taken place in the first chapter of Mark, prior to today’s reading. What has happened in Mark’s telling of the story so far?
- You may also want to spend some time reflecting on the phrase from v. 14, “now after John was arrested...” Name together, or in your journal, the significance of this statement as you understand it. Why is John important? What are some of the ramifications of his arrest, in your opinion?

Day 2. New time (vv. 14-15a).

Jesus, by his very presence, ushers in a new time; Jesus time. The group may want to share, or you may want to journal, about the urgency of Mark’s gospel. For example:

- What parallels do you see between the “immediately” of v. 12 and that of vv. 18 & 20?
- Looking at v. 15, what do you think Jesus means when he says, “the time is fulfilled?”

You may also want to reflect on the discussion of *chronos* and *kairos* in this week’s sermon.

- What is it about Jesus’ ministry, do you think, that changes the very fabric of time?

Day 3. New identity (vv. 15b-20).

Share in your group or in your journal about the aspects of new identity in Christ that are presented in these verses.

- What is the difference between following Jesus as a task or duty, and following Jesus as a matter of identity?

You may want to spend some significant time reflecting on this question together as a group, or in your journal,

Day 4. New Life. (vv. 18 & 20),

When we start a new life, we must leave some things behind. See vv. 18 & 20.

- What do the disciples leave behind in order to follow Jesus?
- Share in your group, or journal, about examples of new life situations that people move into, and some of the things they must leave behind when they do so.
- What, if anything, do you need to leave behind in order to live fully into new life in Christ?
- What might your church, as the body of Christ, need to leave behind, in order to live fully into new life in Him?

Going deeper... What it looks like. Mark 1:21-45.

Peek ahead at the rest of Mark 1, verses 21-45. Scan for ideas about what the “new life” looks like that the disciples are embarking on with Jesus.

- What do they do?
- What do they see?
- What happens to them?
- What are they learning from Jesus?
- What, if any, parallels can you find with your own Christian discipleship in the 21st century?

- What, if any, challenges do you see that inspire you to go deeper, or to get more active, in your own Christian discipleship?

One concrete step was offered in Sunday's sermon. If you would like to know more about Alpha and how to join this church's course, which begins Sunday, January 31, 5:00-6:30pm:

- Contact the church office to request a book
- Show up at the Zoom site on Sunday evening at 5:00; it's the usual Zoom worship site, found on the website, in the Trylon newsletter, or contact the church office
- What is Alpha?
 - An hour and a half on Sunday evenings watching a video about faith and talking about it with friends in an open and friendly Zoom environment.
 - Questions are ok. Not knowing all the answers is ok. Doubts and challenges to the faith are ok.
 - It's for believers, doubters, agnostics, and atheists.
 - It's a refresher course in Christian beliefs and an opportunity to grow together in sharing the good news of Christ's love and grace with others.